REMARKS

Claims 1 -10 are pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0102875) and Claims 2-3 stand rejected under as being unpatentable over Fujiwara et al. in view of Gillespie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,880,411). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding, in order to more fully distinguish the invention, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite an input device having "capacitance detecting means provided for each electrode so as to detect from the respective electrodes a variation in capacitance formed between the respective electrodes and a portion of the human body which faces the electrode in spaces between the respective electrodes when a portion of the human body is adjacent to or in contact with an external surface of the insulating sheet." Additionally, Claim 1 has been further amended to recite capacitance detecting means that include "clock signal generating means for continuously generating a pulse signal composed of a predetermined frequency, and signal delay means having a time constant CR defined by a product of the capacitance C formed between the respective electrodes and the portion of the human body and a resistor R connected between the clock signal generating means and the capacitance C." This subject matter is described in the specification

as filed, particularly with reference to page 9, line 9 to page 12, line 11 as well as Figures 2 and 3. Fujiwara et al. fails to teach these elements.

At a minimum, Fujiwara et al. fails to teach or suggest "capacitance detecting means provided for each electrode so as to detect from the respective electrodes a variation in capacitance formed between the respective electrodes and a portion of the human body which faces the electrode in spaces between the respective electrodes when a portion of the human body is adjacent to or in contact with an external surface of the insulating sheet." In other words, according to the present invention, a portion of the human body (e.g., a finger), functions as an electrode for forming the capacitance in cooperation with a respective electrode. Although Fujiwara et al. discloses an input device, Fujiwara et al. fails to teach or suggest capacitance detecting means as recited in Claim 1 of the present application where a variation in capacitance formed between the respective electrodes and a portion of the human body is detected. This feature of the recited input device is clearly not taught or suggested by Fujiwara et al. Furthermore, there is no suggestion to modify Fujiwara et al. to yield the claimed invention because Fujiwara et al. teaches away from the recited input device. Specifically, Fujiwara et al. discloses an input device comprising a primary electrode 2 and secondary electrodes 3(3a, 3b, 3c, 3d). Fujiwara et al. teaches "the primary electrode 2 and the secondary electrodes 3 act as a capacitor, in which an upper region (including the first insulating layer 1) therebetween constitutes a dielectric." As depicted in Figure 1 of Fujiwara et al. "when a dielectric 8 is positioned on the operating surface 7, electrostatic capacity between the primary electrode 2 and the respective secondary electrodes 3 is varied, so that a position of the dielectric 8 can be specified as described later on the

basis of such change" (Paragraph 0046). As illustrated in Figure 1, the dielectric 8 of Fujiwara et al. is a human body part such as a human finger.

In contrast, as mentioned previously, the present invention calls for a configuration of an input device for detecting capacitance between a first electrode and a human finger (i.e., a second electrode). Fujiwara et al. teaches away from the claimed configuration by disclosing a configuration in which the secondary electrode 3 is disposed between respective primary electrodes, thereby requiring a common electrode.

Furthermore, Fujiwara et al. fails to teach or suggest capacitance detecting means as recited by independent Claim 1. Specifically, Fujiwara et al. is completely silent with regards to capacitance detecting means that include "clock signal generating means for continuously generating a pulse signal composed of a predetermined frequency, and signal delay means having a time constant CR defined by a product of the capacitance C formed between the respective electrodes and the portion of the human body and a resistor R connected between the clock signal generating means and the capacitance C." Therefore, the input device of Claim 1 is clearly not taught or suggested by Fujiwara et al.

Thus, Applicants believe independent Claim 1 patentability distinguishes over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent Claim 1 and is patentably distinct from the reference proposed by the Examiner. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) against independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims be removed.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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